

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Congratulations on your appointment to Chair the FCC. In your new leadership role, I urge you to support the "Fair Share Plan" as a solution to current concerns with the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Fair Share Plan will keep the USF fair, ensuring that consumers like me do not pay the same rate into the USF as big businesses, regardless of how little I may use long distance.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition submitted the Fair Share Plan to the FCC on January 31, 2005. It expands who pays into the USF so that other technologies - not just phones - pay into the system. The Fair Share Plan collects the USF using a combination numbers- and revenue-based plan. This keeps the system fair, equitable and non-discriminatory.

Under the flat fee or numbers-based plan you are considering, people like me who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. I believe it would be unfair to charge low-volume and residential customers the same fees as high-volume residential or business customers.

In principle, I object to the USF program. It is a tax imposed by a federal agency, not by my elected legislators. A portion of the tax is used as a telephone welfare system. I object to a tax on my use of a service being used to subsidize someone else using the service. If taxed, I have an incentive to reduce consumption, but the subsidized person has little incentive to reduce consumption. This is income redistribution by a federal agency and contrary to our nation's market-based economic system.

However, I urge you to at least keep the USF fair by adopting the Fair Share Plan. Thank you, and best of luck in your new position.

cc: Marlene Dortch, Secretary

Sincerely,

William Rennels
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